Bruise-Covered Angel

Oushima Tamaki

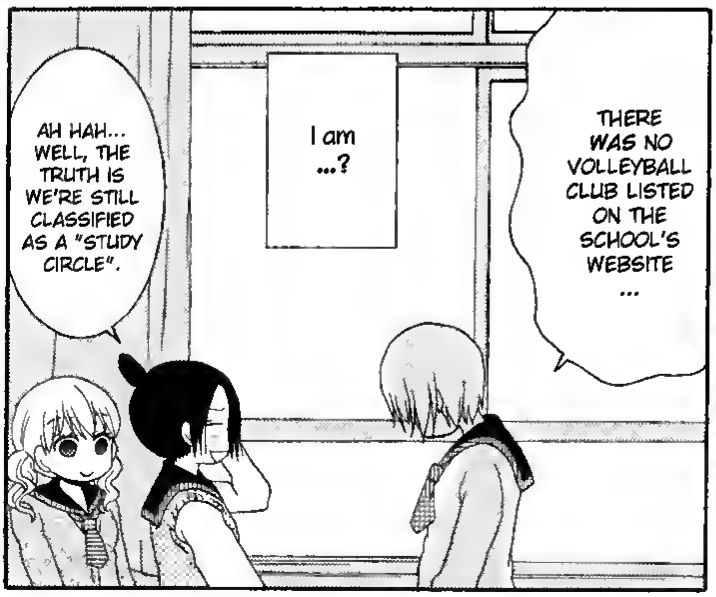
It seems that
STARTING TODAY, SHE'LL BE A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS.
HER NAME IS KAWASAKI FUMIO-SAN.
there's no volleyball club in this school.
So I'm sure that nobody knows.
I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU ALL.
SPORTS?
Nobody knows what I used to be.
WOW, YOU WENT TO SCHOOL AT A GIRLS' ACADEMY?
YOU MUST HAVE BRAINS! AN OJOU-SAMA!
AND LIKE, WHOA! YOU'RE TALL, KAWASAKI-SAN! DO YOU PLAY SPORTS?

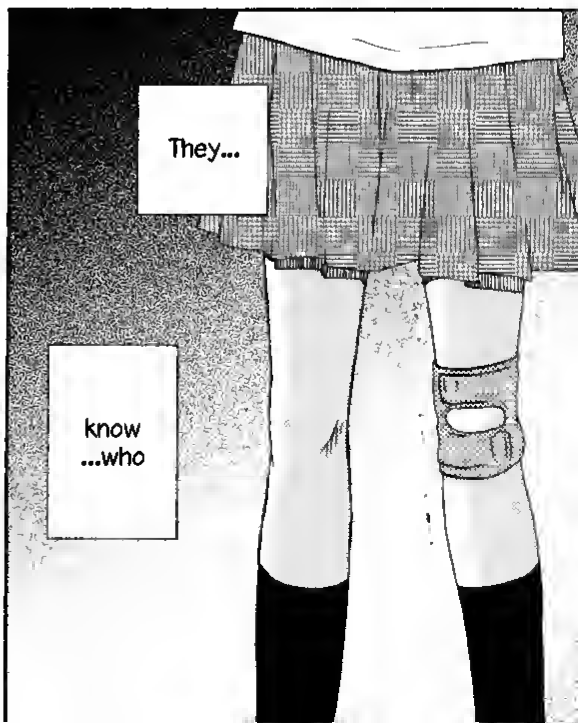
Bruise-Covered Angel

Oushima Tamaki

IS THAT HER? IS THAT KAWASAKI-SAN?
SHOOT, SHE'S TALL! NO WAY TO AVOID GETTING SCOUTED WHEN YOU LOOK LIKE THAT.
ACCORDING TO RUMORS, SHE'S FROM A GIRLS' ACADEMY.
Ehhh?
SHE MUST BE SMART, TOO. I— I WONDER, WILL SHE SPEAK OUR LINGO?
...GIRLS' ACADEMIES AREN'T DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT-O! LET'S GET MACKING.
EH!? YUU-CHA...
OYYYY! KAWASAKI-SAAAAN!
I'M SUZUKI YUUHA FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR.
THIS IS HASEGAWA HINA.
KAWASAKI-SAN, IF IT WOULD PLEASE YOU,

Ba thump
WON'T YOU CONSIDER JOINING THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB?


AH HAH... WELL, THE TRUTH IS WE'RE STILL CLASSIFIED AS A "STUDY CIRCLE".
I am ...?
THERE WAS NO VOLLEYBALL CLUB LISTED ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE ...

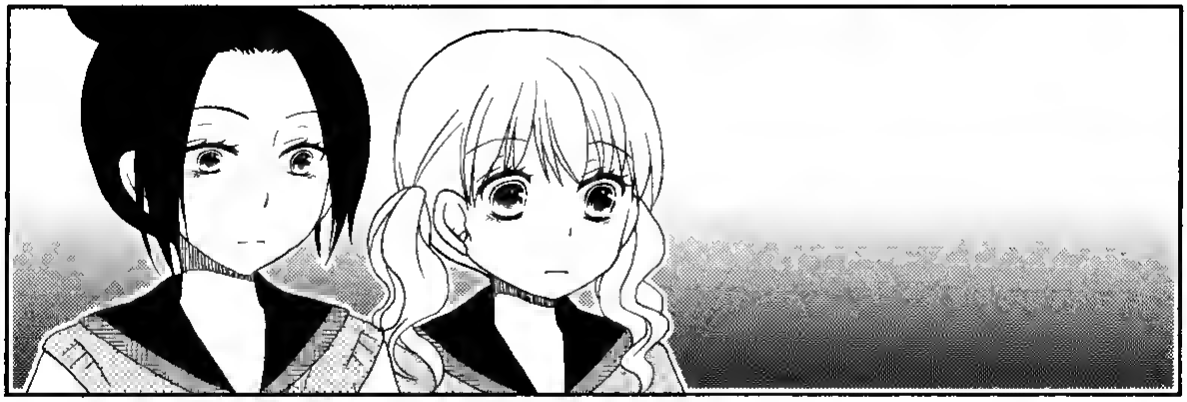

They...
know ...who

Y'all know everybody calls you the Door-to-Door Sales Club?
Yikes! That's not nice at all
Thank heav-ens.
They don't know me.
KAWASAKI-SAN, THEY THROW THIS PITCH AT EVERYBODY, SO DON'T LET 'EM GET TO YOU.
BUT IF WE ADD ONE MORE MEMBER, WE'LL BE UPGRADED TO PROPER CLUB STATUS!
WE'RE A REAL LAID-BACK CLUB, SO EVEN A TOTAL BEGINNER WILL BE FINE!
P_SU3
as for becoming a professional volleyball player... that path is now quite a bit harder to pursue
However... while I don't think it will prove any great obstacle in your everyday life,
You'll need to fully devote yourself for the next year to rehabbing that knee
The magazines are already printing stuff like "Speed Angel (Yeah, right!)"... getting ahead of yourselves a little!?
God
It'll probably scare the corporate teams away too.
Guess that squashes any hope of her getting picked for the national team.
Fumio hurt herself again. And in the exact same spot

NO FREAKING WAY.
Well, but it is just about over for her, now...
Poor Fumio ...
HUH?
TWO PEOPLE? WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, BEACH VOLLEY-BALL?
YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY IN OFFICIAL MATCHES, YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T *WIN* AGAINST ANY-BODY. WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT KIND OF VOLLEYBALL?
OOPS!
Rats, I said too much—
SHE...

GA
SLAM
!?
She knows what she's talking about!!!
Oh no, we're not letting you get away now!
STO- YOU'RE CRUSH-
Squeeze
Squeeze
HEY, KAWASAKI-SA—
I SAID NO.
WHO-OSH
GET OFF M-
YUU-CHAN, I CAN'T BREATHE!
What about me!?
COUGH COUGH
SORRY, HINA! YOU OK!?

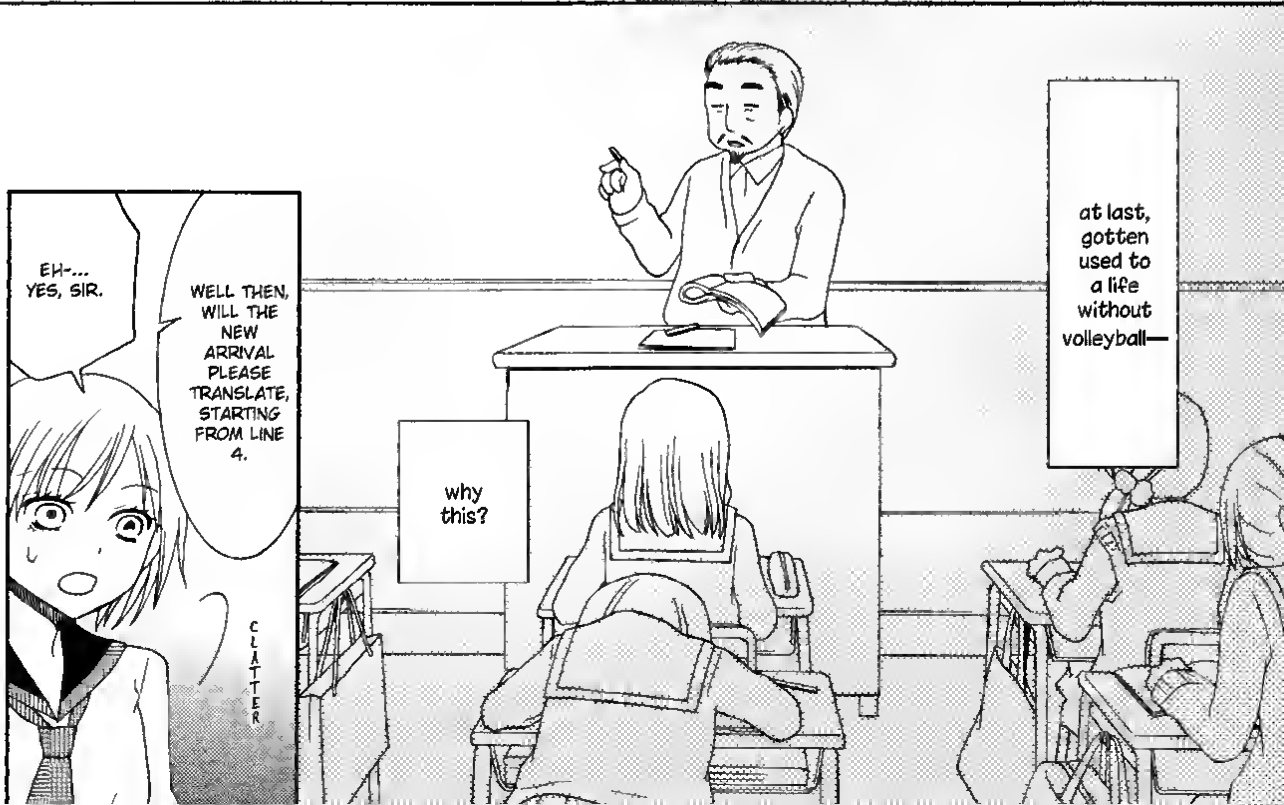
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS BRACE MEANS, RIGHT? I'M HURT.
I DON'T PLAY VOLLEYBALL ANYMORE.

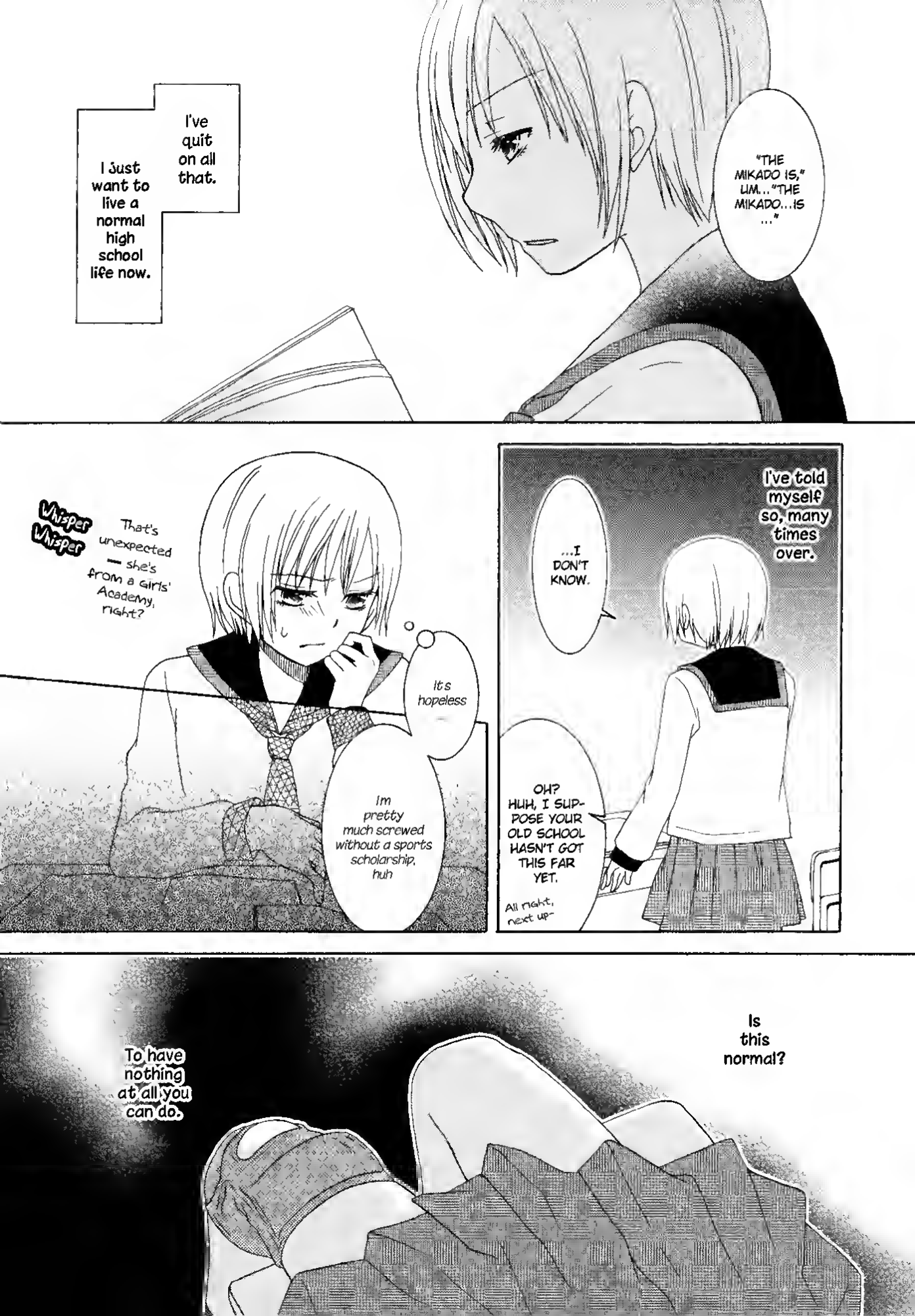


WE CAN SEE INSIDE YOUR SKIRT, YOU KNOW?

WHA-
LL3P
THEN, THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO START ALL OVER AGAIN.
'SCUSE ME!?
I SEE, I SEE, DON'T PLAY ANYMORE, HUH?
DING DONG
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH, GIRLS.
YOU HEARD THE BELL. GET BACK TO THE CLASSROOM, SUZUKI-SAN, HASEGAWA-SAN.

When I had finally,


at last, gotten used to a life without volleyball—
why this?
WELL THEN, WILL THE NEW ARRIVAL PLEASE TRANSLATE, STARTING FROM LINE 4.
EH-... YES, SIR.
CLATTER


I've quit on all that.
I just want to live a normal high school life now.
"THE MIKADO IS," UM..."THE MIKADO...IS ..."
Whisper Whisper
That's unexpected — she's from a Girls' Academy, right?
It's hopeless
I'm pretty much screwed without a sports scholarship, huh
I've told myself so, many times over.
...I DON'T KNOW.
OH? HUH, I SUPPOSE YOUR OLD SCHOOL HASN'T GOT THIS FAR YET.
All right, next up-
Is this normal?
To have nothing at all you can do.

To feel like such a disgrace.

Here we GOO!
It's those two.
Yoo♦
WU MP
They-
Slu——mp
They utterly suck.
I mean, I didn't expect much, but this !
Sorry, sorry!
All right, let's take a break
That's a freaking quick break.
You were at it for like two minutes!
If it were me, three sets of at least 45 minutes would be...

I'm an idiot.
...REALLY A DISGRACE...
slide
I just can't get it in my head that it's time to give up.
SHOOT, I FELL ASLEE-
Blink Blink

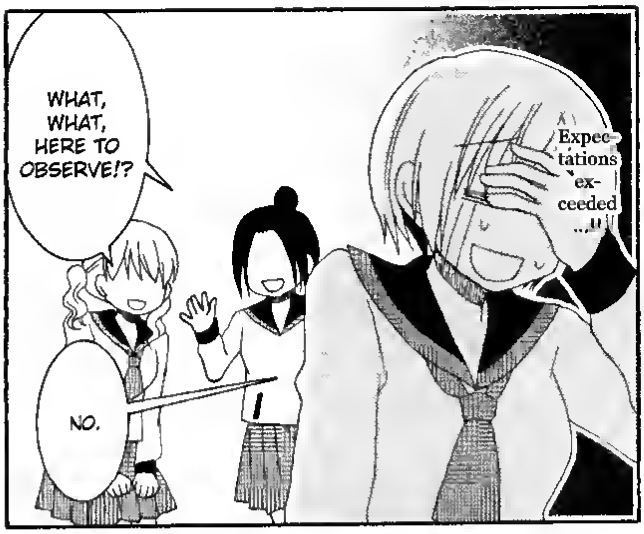
GYAHHHHH!!
Otodo
(his name)
Cuz he reminds us of a bee, oh-haha! A bee! He's houses
OTODO SAID TO HELP YOU WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY WORKSHEET.
I'm super smart, did you know?
WH-WHAT!?
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES?
WE QUIT FOR THE DAY. IT'S TOO COLD.
WHA...!
THE SUN'S STILL UP, ISN'T IT?
THIS THING'S TOTALLY BLANK!
WHICH PART DID YOU GET STUCK ON?
.....T
THE WHOLE THING...
WOOOT
A ha ha
WELL, HOW ABOUT WE START WITH CONJUGATION?
OK, SO FOR THIS PART ...

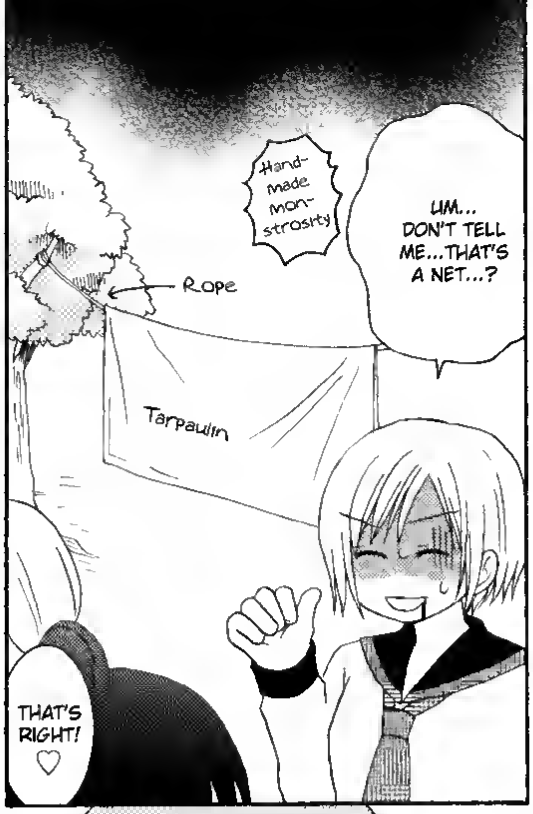
...NO, I WILL NOT!
Dang
NEXT TIME WE PRACTICE, YOU'LL COME TO WATCH US.
THE STEM ENDS IN "A", SO THE MORPHEME CONJUGATES LIKE "RU".
RIGHT.
RIGHT.
IT'S A SHIMO NIDAN VERB...
THIS IS IN THE HUMBLE FORM, SO THE CONJUGATION WILL BE DIFFERENT.
RIGHT.
RIGHT.
I'VE ALREADY SEEN A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU CALL "PRACTICE". IT'S WAY TOO LAX!
YOU SHOULD SPEND AT LEAST AN HOUR WARMING UP, THEN WORK ON TOSSING DRILLS, RECEIVING DRILLS, SERVING DRILLS...
WHOA, SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE PRO.
THEN, I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT FOR COACH FUMIO TO JOIN THE CLUB AND INSTRUCT US.
NO OTHER CHOICE!
GRRR
...NO, NOT THAT!

I'M TELLING YOU TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!
YOUR HALF-HEARTEDLY SCREWING AROUND IS JUST AN EYESORE!
Hah
— OF COURSE.
SMILE
SORRY!
!
What's your problem?

Don't give me that carefree laugh ...
All done!
YO, KAWA-ZAKI...
YOU JOINING THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB?
NO-
NO WAY!
FLAP FLAP FLUTTER
Volleyball from Fundamentals
Getting Started with Volleyball
Volleyball Practice Methods
I'm probably just wasting my time with this stuff...
Those girls have no drive.
WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY THE RIGHT MOVE.
HUH?
I MEAN, HINA-CHAN'S IN THAT CLUB, RIGHT?

—HUH?
I think they said they spend lunch period out back of the school...
Here it comes!
Whip
EXCUSE ME—
MO HA
AH! IT'S COACH FUMIO!


WHAT, WHAT, HERE TO OBSERVE!?
Expectations exceeded...!!
NO.


Hand-made monstrosity
Rope
Tarpaulin
UM... DON'T TELL ME...THAT'S A NET...?
THAT'S RIGHT! ♡

YOU GUYS WEREN'T JUST HALF-HEARTEDLY SCREWING AROUND, AT ALL!

...THAT'S NOT IT.

I... I'M HERE
EH!? FOR WHAT?
TO APOLOGIZE.

HASE-GAWA-SAN, YOU'RE SICK!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T DO STRENUOUS EXERCISE...!
ccc
... BUSTED, HUH.
tilt
IT'S A RESPIRATORY DISORDER.
SHE CAN'T EXERT HERSELF FOR LONG PERIODS, OR IN EXTREME HEAT OR COLD...
toss

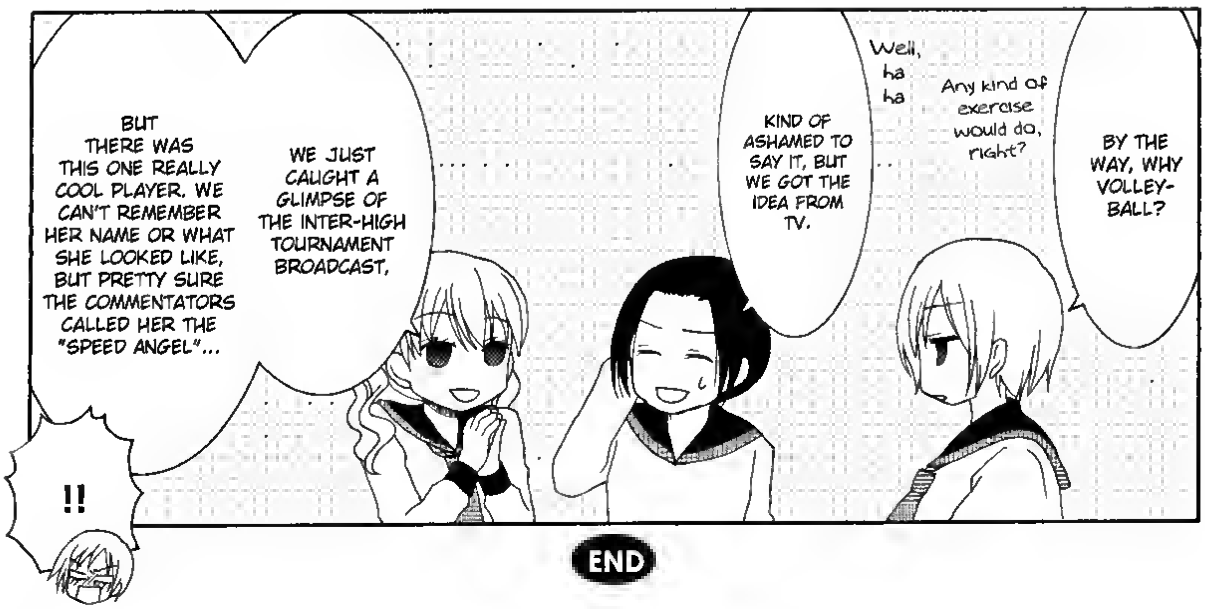
WE'RE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
UM...I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY.
WHY?
IT'S A DELICATE BALANCE.
YET, A MODERATE AMOUNT OF EXERCISE IS NECESSARY FOR HER RECOVERY.

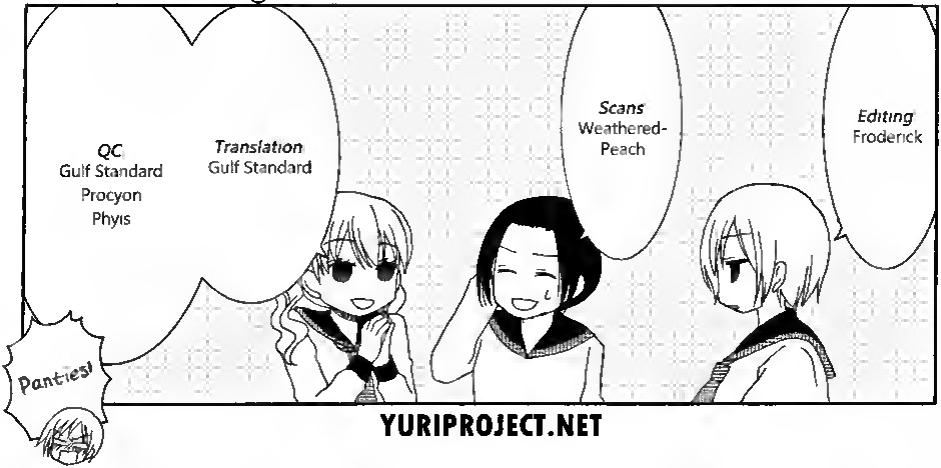
"YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP, YOU'RE SICK"—
I HATE BEING LOOKED AT LIKE THAT. THAT'S ALL.

... YOU'RE AMAZING, HASEGAWA-SAN.

Gave up on flying high.
Gave up on striking swiftly.
UNLIKE YOU, I... GAVE UP.
Gave up on all the things I could see from up there...
GIRLS' ACADEMY CLUB TAKES BACK-TO-BACK TITLES!!
ACE KAWASAKI, THE "SPEED ANGEL", TAKES FLIGHT!!
EHHH— BUT FUMIO-CHAN, YOU HAVEN'T REALLY GIVEN UP AT ALL.
WHAT?
YOU'RE WEARING 'EM UNDER THAT SKIRT AGAIN, RIGHT?—YOUR UNIFORM SHORTS!
'CAUSE,
Flip
!

STUBBORN ATTACHMENT IS GREAT!
Fwp
NO, THAT'S ...
IT'S JUST STUBBORN ATTACHMENT.
WE LOVE
STUBBORN PEOPLE WHO NEVER GIVE UP!
What's you guys' problem ...
HEY, FUMIO-CHAN.
PLEASE JOIN THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB, AND GET EVEN ANGRIER AT US.


I told you... not to laugh so carefreely—
...I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT THERE WAS THIS ONE REALLY COOL PLAYER. WE CAN'T REMEMBER HER NAME OR WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE, BUT PRETTY SURE THE COMMENTATORS CALLED HER THE "SPEED ANGEL"...
WE JUST CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE INTER-HIGH TOURNAMENT BROADCAST.
KIND OF ASHAMED TO SAY IT, BUT WE GOT THE IDEA FROM TV.
Well, ha ha
Any kind of exercise would do, right?
BY THE WAY, WHY VOLLEY-BALL?
!!
END



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